GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2393
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2014
MARKETING OF ORGANIC PRODUCE PRODUCTS
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and value of the organic products including forest and agricultural forest products exported during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise;

(b) the present regulatory framework with respect to organic farming including role of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in promoting export of organic products along with the activities carried out by it in this regard during the said period;

(c) whether the Government provides any subsidies/incentives for marketing of organic products and if so, the details thereof indicating channels/platforms available to farmers for the purpose;

(d) the total expenditure incurred by APEDA on the promotion of organic products during the said period, State/UTwise; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to devolve/delegate regulatory responsibilities to States in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) The Country wise export of organic products for the year 2011-12 to 2013-14 is annexed.

(b) The Organic Agricultural Produce Grading and Marking Rules, 2009 have been notified under the provisions of the Agricultural Produce (Grading & Marking) Act, 1937. The Rules provide for grading and marking of organic agricultural produce included in the Schedule of the Act. The grading and marking is voluntary for domestic trade.

As far as export of organic food products is concerned, the same is looked after by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an Autonomous Body under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce. Such exports are required to comply with the provision of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP). The aims of NPOP include policies for development and certification of organic products, national standards for organic products, accreditation of certification bodies, and certification of organic products in conformity to the national standards and encourage the development of organic cultivation and processing.

(c & d)No specific subsidies/incentives are provided specifically for the marketing of organic products. However, APEDA provides financial assistance under Agriculture Export Promotion Plan Scheme of APEDA under its components of Infrastructure, Quality development and market development. The exporters of organic products too can avail financial assistance under the above components of this Plan Scheme of APEDA.

(e) No such proposal is under consideration of the Department of Commerce.